

House Resolution 1969

By: Representatives Borders of the 175<sup>th</sup> and Black of the 174<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Commander Steve Heaton for his contributions to the Valdosta Police  
2 Department; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Commander Heaton has led the Investigative Bureau of the Valdosta Police  
4 Department since February, 1996; and

5 WHEREAS, during his tenure, Heaton has helped to expand the bureau's capabilities including  
6 the creation of a crime lab at police headquarters and increasing the abilities of the  
7 department's crime scene unit; and

8 WHEREAS, under Commander Heaton's leadership, the Investigative Bureau of the Valdosta  
9 Police Department has consistently maintained a crime clearance rate well above the national  
10 average; and

11 WHEREAS, when Commander Heaton arrived in Valdosta, the city police department was in  
12 need of major restructuring and, in conjunction with Police Chief Fran Simons, Commander  
13 Heaton and his fellow commanders collectively restored the community's confidence in the  
14 Valdosta Police Department, which is now a nationally credited department; and

15 WHEREAS, after a successful career with the Valdosta Police Department, Commander  
16 Heaton will soon take on his next challenge in law enforcement as police chief in Fayetteville,  
17 Georgia.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the  
19 members of this body recognize Commander Steve Heaton for his contributions to the  
20 Valdosta Police Department.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and  
22 directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Commander Steve Heaton.